

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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STATE FOR CU/AF
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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC SHUM
SUBJ: DR WARREN WEINSTEIN VISIT

1. WEINSTEIN'S TWO-DAY VISIT TO LOME WAS VERY PRODUCTIVE BOTH IN TERMS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM HE IS TRYING TO ORGANIZE AND OF PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY AND FOCUS FOR LOCAL DISCUSSIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. TO EXPLAIN PURPOSE OF PROJECTED COLLOQUIUM AND TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS, WEINSTEIN AND PAO HAD HOUR-LONG MEETINGS WITH DEAN OF UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL AND HIS COLLEAGUES AND WITH PRESIDENT OF TOGOLESE SUPREME COURT. BOTH MEETINGS CHARACTERIZED BY OPEN, FRANK DISCUSSIONS SHOWING GREAT ENTHUSIASM FOR THE SUBJECT. SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT SUGGESTED HIMSELF AS TOGO'S PARTICIPANT. LATTER HAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING INSIGHTS ON
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STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONAL PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL ANALYSIS RE TRANSFORMATION TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS OF CHIEFLY AUTHORITY, WITH TRADITIONAL CHECKS AND BALANCES, TO MORE MODERN UNITARY STATES, WITH MODERN POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS, BUT WITH WEAKENED OR NON-EXISTENT LIMITATIONS ON EXERCISE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY. LUNCH HOSTED BY DCM PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENDED AND LIVELY DISCUSSION

OF MEANING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICAN CONTEXT BETWEEN
AMBASSADOR, WEINSTEIN, SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT, DCM AND
SCHOOL OF LETTERS DEAN.
FACT THAT WEINSTEIN AND AMBASSADOR HAD WORKED TOGETHER
IN WASHINGTON ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WAS ADDED PLUS
AND GAVE CONSIDERABLE ELAN TO WITTY COLLOQUY.

2. HIGH POINT OF VISIT WAS LECTURE AT SCMOOL OF LAW ON
EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW. PAO
EXPECTED ATTENDANCE OF THIRTY OR SO LAW STUDENTS, BUT
AT BEGINNING OF LECTURE ALL 186 SEATS WERE FILLED.
AT CONCLUSION THREE HOURS LATER THERE WERE 45 STANDEES
INSIDE AND ANOTHER 40 OR 50 MASSED BY THE OPEN WINDOWS
OUTSIDE.

3. WITH IMPECCABLE ACADEMIC AND INTELLECTUAL CREDENTIALS,
WEINSTEIN IS SUPERB BILINGUAL LECTURER. DELIVERED FROM A
BRIEF OUTLINE, HIS LECTURE WAS A MODEL OF ORGANIZATION AND
CLARITY. RECEPTION WAS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC AND THE POST-
LECTURE DISCUSSION OF THE PLACE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AMERICAN
FOREIGN POLICY WAS PROLONGED. PERHAPS THE BEST DESCRIPTION
OF WEINSTEIN'S EFFECT IS THE REMARK BY LAW SCHOOL ASSISTANT
DEAN THAT "TO HAVE BROUGHT SUCH A SPEAKER TO US HAS BEEN
TO PAY US A HIGH COMPLIMENT."

4. WEINSTEIN'S VISIT SERVED TO UNCOVER AN UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH
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LEVEL OF INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO HELP PERSUADE
TOGOLESE THAT THE US COMMITMENT IS REAL AND SERIOUS.
PALMER

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